

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

France

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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

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EYES ONLY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

VIEWING THE EVENTS OF THE PAST MONTH FROM HERE HAS CAUSED ME TO FEEL THAT WHAT STARTED OUT AS A TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION, AMONG US, UK AND FRANCE, HAS CHANGED ITS FORM SOMEWHAT, AND IN A MANNER INIMICAL TO THE BEST INTEREST OF US AND FRANCE AND OUR ALLIES. THIS IS MERELY AN IMPRESSION ONE GATHERS FROM KEEPING A FINGER ON LOCAL PULSE AND READING TELEGRAMS COMING FROM WASHINGTON. TO USE A SIMILE, WHAT WAS AT FIRST IN THE FORM OF AN EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE HAS NOW DISTORTED ITS SHAPE TO AN ISOSCELES TRIANGLE WITH DE GAULLE AWAY OUT AT THE APEX WITH INDICATIONS THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO GO FURTHER OUT UNLESS DRAWN BACK IN BY THE INITIATIVE OF THE US.

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THIS PAST SUMMER IN FRANCE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSIVE AND SO FAR THE FALL HAS NOT YET BROUGHT OUT THE UNREST AND DISTURBANCES THAT WE ANTICIPATED. ALTHOUGH SITUATION REMAINS EXTREMELY TOUCHY. THIS IS ALMOST ENTIRELY DUE TO DE GAULLE'S HANDLING OF AGRICULTURAL SITUATION, LABOR PROBLEM, BIZERTE AND ALGERIA. NOW WITH THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY BODIES MEETING AND HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH MANY DOMESTIC PROBLEMS THAT CONTINUE TO TAKE MUCH OF HIS TIME, THERE IS AN INCREASING DANGER THAT HE WILL BE ISOLATED FROM WHAT MAY TAKE PLACE BETWEEN US AND UK IN RELATION TO BERLIN SITUATION. I AM SURE THAT HE WILL NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND ASK TO BE BROUGHT INTO US-UK COUNCILS. YET, IT IS APPARENT THAT HE IS BECOMING QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT MAY COME OUT OF PRESENT RUSK-GROMYKO DISCUSSIONS. IT SEEMS HIGHLY ADVISABLE, THEREFORE, FOR PRESIDENT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN APPROACHING DE GAULLE

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BY MLM NAME, DATE 9/1/77

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-2- 1811. OCTOBER 4. 6 PM. FROM: PARIS

AND INFORMING HIM OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED AND WHAT OUR THINKING IS ON WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

AS A FIRST SUGGESTION, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT SEND A MESSAGE, THROUGH ME I WOULD HOPE, TO GENERAL DE GAULLE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER HIS TALK WITH GROMYKO INFORMING DE GAULLE OF WHAT TOOK PLACE AND OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN KEEPING HIM INFORMED AND SEEKING HIS ADVICE. NEXT, IT SEEMS FROM HERE TO BE VERY MUCH IN ORDER TO HAVE A MEETING OF A QUADRIPARTITE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEN HEADS OF STATE BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD TOWARD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. DE GAULLE HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN HIS OWN COUNTRY IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND HE SHOWS A CONTINUING IMPROVED POSTURE TOWARD THE USSR. BECAUSE OF THE PERSONALITY OF THE MAN AND THE SENSITIVITY OF FRANCE'S RELATIONSHIP TO US AND UK, I WOULD CONSIDER IT HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT US TAKE INITIATIVE IN KEEPING DE GAULLE IN CLOSE AFFINITY WITH OUR THINKING AND PLANNING. I SENSE A DEGREE OF CRITICISM IN THE AMERICAN PRESS OF DE GAULLE'S TENDENCY "TO GO IT ALONE" ONE AGAIN. THIS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME FURTHER AGGRAVATED AND THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED WILL BEST BE SERVED WHEN WE TAKE STEPS TO RESTORE THE EQUILATERAL BALANCE TO OUR TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS.

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